Cut Motion No. 14

Opening up a canal connecting Karingachirapadam with the Backwaters

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Sir, this is *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,99,085 for Communications—Original works by Re. 1.* The object of the motion is *to urge upon the Government the urgent need for opening up a canal between the Karingachira padom and the backwater in the west of Trippunittura for opening up communication with the backwater and for letting off excess water in the Karingachira padam.*

Sir, this is both an irrigation work as well as a work of communication. This is a very old question and I am sure the House is fully aware of the necessity for the opening of this canal. There are at least a few thousands of acres of nilams belonging to Cochin State and lying between Keecheri and Chitrapuzha. The particular portion that I am referring to, the Karingachira padam, lies to the west of the Hill Palace. Because the Chief Engineer has lived there for a long time, he also knows the necessity of this canal.

For another reason, not only because it will let off the excess water collected in the Karingachira padam, but also because it will be a means of communication to the backwater lying to the west of Trippunittura. In that sense it will practically connect the villages of Thiruvankulam, Nadamel, Thekkumbhagam and Mulanthuruthi with the backwater. If this canal is opened we can divert our goods through this canal and thereby obviate the necessity of taking them through the Travancore territory. Anybody taking goods through the Travancore territory knows the difficulties he will be put to—the number of mamools, and other sorts of exactions. Last year the very same matter came up before this House and then we got nothing more than an assurance from the Chief Engineer. I hope the Government will do something in this matter immediately.

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon *(Chief Engineer):* Sir, the construction of this canal from Karingachira to the western side of Trippunittura has been engaging the attention of this House and the Government for a very long time and we have also completed estimates for this work. This canal is meant to have two advantages. One is flood relief and the other is communication. So far as flood relief is concerned, it is fairly well known that the flooding of the area from Vettuvelichira on the north to Karingachira is mainly caused by the overflow of water from Chitrapuzha. So, in the scheme we have submitted, we have also included the raising of the bund which is now called Vettuvelichira and if that is done the

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flooding of Chitrapuzha will be diminished to a considerable extent. In that case the drainage portion of the advantages of this canal cannot be very great. On the question of communication, I had a talk on this matter with the Diwan a few days ago and he said that before we embark upon this scheme it is necessary to know whether this work cannot be taken up on a capital basis as was done in the case of the Irinjalakkuda Shanmukham canal. He also ordered that we should collect statistics of the probable tonnage of goods which will be passing through this canal for which a suitable toll may be established. It is our intention to get some figures of the trade that may be diverted through this canal and after that enquiry is completed, we shall be prepared to consider this scheme.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* On this question I am very glad to know that the Government has moved a little. But I would impress upon the Government, before I beg leave to withdraw this motion, the necessity of considering this question not entirely from the basis of profit alone, because some 8 or 9 villages are now driven to the necessity of taking their goods through Travancore Territory, thereby suffering much inconvenience. Therefore, this question may be considered not from the point of view of profit alone, but also from the point of view of the benefit that will be accruing to these villages of the State. Anyway, in view of the assurance given by the Chief Engineer, I do not propose to press this motion.

Motion by leave withdrawn.

Cut Motion No. 15

To reduce thc allotment of Rs. 4,19,87[illegible] for Communications by Re. 1.

(To point out the necessity for deepening and making navigable that portion of the Arappa thodu lying in the Edavilangu village.)

Mr. M. L. Joseph *(Latin-Christians Cranganur):* I do not wish to move this motion in view of the assurance given by the Chief Engineer that this will be taken up as a relief work immediately.

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